and Kashmir, enabled the holding of elections to the State Assembly and installation of an elected Government. Following this, there has been a further improvement in the situation in the State.

(c) and (d) In the recent high level review of naxalite problem in the country, the CentralGovernment, in consultation with the concerned States, has drawn up an Action Plan to deal with the problem, which includes:

(a) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in Naxalite affected areas;

(b) to have common communication system;

(c) Joint partolling;

(d) Set up a Control Room in each States;

(e) launching of Area Domination Programme among the States;

(f) Ministry of Home Affairs have also arranged for training of police personnel in anti-naxalite operations and

(g) strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States.

Concerned State Governments have been requested to take immediate action to implement the above Action Plan. The action taken by the State Governments is being reviewed at high levels time to time. apart from above, the following allocations have been made to the affected States under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme during 1996-97 (as on 11.2.1997):

	(Rs. in lakhs)
Andhar Pradesh	Rs. 709.560
Bihar	Rs. 233.120
Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 237.820
Maharasthra	Rs. 125.645
Orissa	Rs. 200.000

In addition, an amount of Rs. 5 crores, as grant-in-aid, has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 for anti-naxalite operations.

High Level Committee set up to review the Recomendations of the Sarkaria Committee

506. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Minimum Programme of Government contains a promise to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Committee;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The common Minimum Programme contains a reference to the constitution of a High Level Committee to review and up date the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. This matter was considered by the Inter-State Council in its second meeting held on 15.10.1996. The Inter-State Council adopted the recommendation that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council for continuous consultations and processing of matters for the consideration of the Council. The Standing Committee has since been constituted *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs Notification No. 7/496-ISC dated 5.12.1996 as given below.

No. 7/496-ISC
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Inter-State Council Secretariat
New Delhi, the 5th December, 1996

NOTIFICATIONS

Sub: *Constitution of Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council*

Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations had, among other things, recommended that the Inter-State Council should consist of a General Body assisted by a smaller Standing Committee. The Inter-State Council, at its second meeting, held on 15.10.96, also recommended that there should be a Standing Committee of the Council for continuous consultation and processing of matters for the consideration of the Council.

2. The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council is accordingly constituted comprising the following members:

1. Sh. Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs—Chairman.
2. Sh. P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance.
3. Sh. Murasoli Maran, Minister of Industry.
4. Sh. Mulayam Singh Yadav, Minister of Defence.
5. Sh. S. R. Bommai, Minister of Human Resource Development.
6. Shri J. B. Patnaik, Chief Minister, Orissa.
7. Sh. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Chief Minister, Rajasthan.
8. Sh. Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister, West Bengal.
9. Sh. N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh.
10. Sh. Manohar Joshi, Chief Minister, Maharashtra.
11. Sh. P. K. Mahanta, Chief Minister, Assam.

3. The Standing Committee will:—

(i) have continuous consultation and process matters for consideration of the Council.

(ii) review and update the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission especially the vital question of devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to State Governments.

(iii) examine the changes required in Article 356 of the Constitution.

(iv) consider the current views of the State Governments on 179 recommendations on which there was a consensus in the Sub-committee and also the 12 items on which there was no consensus.

(v) process all matters pertaining to Centre-State relations before they are taken up for consideration in the Inter-State Council.

(vi) monitor the implementation of decisions taken on the recommendations of the Council; and

(vii) consider any other matter referred to it by the Chairman/ Council.

4. The Standing Committee will submit its report on items (ii) and (iii) mentioned above within three months.

5. The Standing Committee may, if necessary invite experts and persons eminent in specific fields to have the benefit of their views while deliberating upon the related subjects.

Sd/-

(DR. R. K. NAYAK)

SECRETARY

INTER-STATE COUNCIL

Insurgency in the North-East

507. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of the problem of insurgency in the North-East Region;

(b) the factors responsible for growing insurgency in the States of North-East Region; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Currently the States of Assam, Tripura,